

PUBLIC NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Environmental Control
Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Public Notice # SAC 2006-3574-SIB

Date: October 17, 2008

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, the requirements of Regulation 61-101, Water Quality Certification, and the South Carolina Construction in Navigable Waters Permitting Program (R. 19-450, et. seq., 1976 S.C code of Laws, as amended) an application has been submitted to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (Department) by the South Carolina Public Service Authority (SCPSA), also referred to as Santee Cooper, for a permit to construct intake and discharge structures and alter jurisdictional wetlands in and adjacent to waters of the Great Pee Dee River. The proposed project is located approximately five miles southeast of the Town of Pamplico in Florence County, South Carolina (Latitude 33.92417°N, Longitude 79.4933°W).

The Department originally received an application for this project on December 22, 2006, at which time a joint public notice for the proposed project was distributed. The applicant subsequently withdrew the application on August 9, 2007. The applicant has now resubmitted the request for a 401 Water Quality Certification and Construction in Navigable Waters Permit. The following description of the proposed work reflects any modifications made to the project since the 2006 application was submitted. A map of the site location and a drawing of the site showing the proposed impacts will be made available upon request.

The proposed work consists of constructing a coal-fired steam generating station with associated facilities, a rail line extension, and transmission corridor. Construction will involve the installation of an intake and discharge structure in the Great Pee Dee River adjacent to Bostic Landing. Construction of the proposed generating station will involve impacting 23.39 acres of wetlands (6.51 acres of fill in jurisdictional wetlands, 5.19 acres of fill in non-jurisdictional wetlands, 6.85 acres of mechanized land clearing in jurisdictional wetlands, 2.01 acres of mechanized land clearing in non-jurisdictional wetlands, 1.61 acres of excavation in jurisdictional wetlands, 0.69 acres excavation in non-jurisdictional wetlands, and 0.53 acres in Waters of the United States). Construction/upgrade of the rail line extension will involve impacts to 9.39 acres of jurisdictional wetlands (4.49 acres filled and 4.90 acres of mechanized land clearing). Construction of the transmission line will involve converting 58.68 acres of jurisdictional forested wetlands to scrub shrub wetlands. A total of 91.46 acres of jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional wetland impacts will occur to accomplish the intended work.

The Department is in the process of reviewing the application for the proposed project. Based on that review and any public comments received, the Department will prepare a staff

assessment addressing water quality impacts of the project and make conclusions concerning compliance with water quality standards, protection of classified and existing uses, and other environmental impacts. Upon completion of the staff assessment, the Department will issue a Notice of Proposed Decision (NOPD) to the applicant that the Department considers its final decision subject to appeal. The NOPD will be sent to agencies having jurisdiction or interest over the activity site, owners or residents of adjacent property, and persons providing comments in response to this notice. Aggrieved parties have rights to appeal the proposed decision.

A public meeting with a question and answer period will be held to discuss the proposed project. Following the public meeting, the Department will hold a public hearing to allow interested persons the opportunity to express concerns and comments regarding this facility, and to receive additional comments on the proposed activity. **The proceedings will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, in the gymnasium of Johnsonville High School located at 237 South Georgetown Highway, Johnsonville, South Carolina.** Directions may be obtained by calling the school at (843) 386-2707. A hearing officer designated by the Department will conduct the hearing. The Department values each participant's involvement in the public hearing and therefore will conduct it in respectful, orderly manner with reasonable limits on the length of oral presentations, if necessary. Those who wish to comment will be called upon at random. The public hearing will be reported verbatim and a copy of the transcript will be made available for public inspection.

Written comments concerning the potential water quality impacts from this project will be accepted through close of business on December 3, 2008, so that comments made during and after the public hearing may be considered in addition to previous comments received. Comments should be submitted to:

Chris Beckham, Project Manager
Division of Water Quality
SCDHEC
2600 Bull Street
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